

DRINKING WATER QUALITY STUDY

The United States has one of the safest water supplies in the world. However, national statistics don't indicate specifically on the quality and safety of the water coming out of municipal water lines, because drinking water quality varies from municipality to municipality -- depending on the condition of the water source from which it is drawn and the treatment it receives. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power supplies 200 billion gallons of drinking water a year to 4 million residents. However, the quality of the City of Los Angeles' drinking water ranks among the lowest of large U.S. cities, and contains nearly four times the average number of chemical pollutants. One cancer-causing chemical exceeded federal legal standards while 14 other chemicals surpassed recommended health guidelines, according to an environmental report. In comparison, the agency that supplies potable water to 19 million residents around the city of Los Angeles ranked 58th. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California tap water contained 27 chemicals, most of them unregulated and legal, but potentially unsafe.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Ridley-Thomas	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

This week, media outlets have reported on the results of a study by the Environmental Working Group that ranked the quality of the drinking water in the City of Los Angeles at 83 out of 100, suggesting very low water quality.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures Department and its Environmental Toxicology Lab, the Water Works Division of the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Public Health, to re-test the quality of the water and confer with State health officials, the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power, and the Metropolitan Water District in reviewing the report of the Environmental Working Group and report back to this Board with recommendations within 90 days.

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